

REMARKS

Prior to the Office Action Claims 1-47 were pending. By the present amendment, Claims 1, 10, 18, 19, 29, 33, 42, and 43-46 have been amended, Claims 2-5, 30, 34-35, 39-41 and 47 have been cancelled and new Claims 48-74 have been added. These amendments have been made to place the application in condition for allowance based on the allowability of claims stated in the Office Action.

As the Examiner will note, the limitations of allowed Claims 4 and 5 have been amended into independent Claim 1, thereby placing amended claim 1 in condition for allowance. Other amendments and cancellations have been made to certain claims depending from Claim 1 in order to comport with the amendment of Claim 1. The stated objection under 35 U.S.C. 112 was also overcome by these amendments.

Additionally, the the limitation of allowed Claim 30 has been amended into independent Claim 29, thereby placing independent Claim 29 in condition for allowance. Other amendments and cancellations have been made to certain claims depending from Claim 29 in order to comport with the amendment of Claim 29.

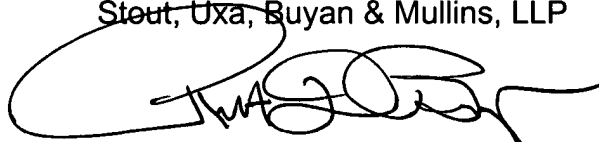
Additionally, new independent Claim 48 contains the subject matter of original Claim 1 in combination with the limitations of allowed dependent Claim 26. New dependent Claims 49-74 correspond to the limitations of original dependent Claims 2-25 and 27-28. Thus, new Claims 48-74 are also in condition for allowance.

On the basis of the foregoing, issuance of a Notice of Allowance is requested as to all pending Claims 1, 6-29, 31-33, 36-38, 42-46 and 48-74.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment and credit any overpayment of the filing fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16 and any patent application processing fees required under 37 § CFR 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 50-0878.

Respectfully submitted,
Stout, Uxa, Buyan & Mullins, LLP

Date: November 14, 2003



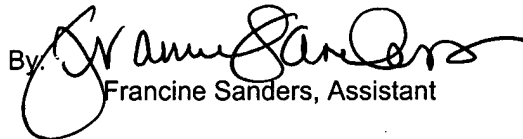
Robert D. Buyan, Reg. No. 32,460

4 Venture, Suite 300
Irvine, CA 92618
Telephone: (949) 450-1750; Facsimile: (949) 450-1764
email: rbuyan@patlawyers.com

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 14, 2003.

Dated: November 14, 2003

By: 
Francine Sanders, Assistant